

Washington Ignores Poor Children's Plea For Bright Christmas

Other Large Cities Requested Santa Claus
Mail, But Only a Few Individuals in Cap-
ital Took Advantage of New Law.

Washington is today enjoying the unique and unenviable position of being practically the only large city in the United States that has not availed itself of the rule relating to philanthropic institutions letters addressed to Santa Claus.

It is said at the office of the city postmaster that not a request has been received from any philanthropic institution or organized charity in Washington for any of the Santa Claus letters. Two or three belated requests have been received from individuals, however, for a limited number of the letters, and Postmaster Barnes, acting under special permit, has released some of the letters in this way.

One person was given twenty-five of the letters, and one person from out of town, who arrived at the time because the Postmaster General's order did not permit the letters being entrusted to individuals.

One of the woman clerks employed in the office of the Auditor for the

Postoffice Department is making preparations to secure a number of the letters today, and she will then appeal to Washington shop keepers to let her have a supply of the left-over toys to be sent to the little letter writers.

It is with a degree of disappointment that the officials of the department refer to the fact that Washington has proved a delinquent in the matter of the Santa Claus mail. It is said that no city has more charitable institutions that derive revenue from the Government, and that the proportion of wealthy citizens is large, yet not a pursestring of the wealthy has been loosened to carry forward this charity.

It is pointed out that in New York city the Federation of Women's Clubs is taking a large proportion of the Santa Claus letters and sending out the presents. In Boston and Philadelphia likewise, the societies are busy.

The department is in receipt of newspaper clippings from all sections of the country, showing that the spirit of philanthropy is abroad in the land, and it is with a spirit of resignation that the statement is made that in Washington there is "nothing doing."

SCHOOL BOARD GIVEN JOLT BY DR. CHANCELLOR

Superintendent Charges
Unnecessary Purchase
of Text Books on
Physiology.

Says Recommendation
Made by Hughes is
Wholly Without
Authority.

Superintendent of Schools William E. Chancellor today sent to the District Commissioners a letter charging that the Board of Education, at its meeting December 23, unnecessarily expended the school funds in ordering the purchase of certain text-books recommended by Assistant Superintendent of Schools Hughes.

Dr. Chancellor also stated in his letter that Mr. Hughes acted without authority in recommending the purchase of the books, since he, Chancellor, was in this city at the time the recommendations were made.

Suggests Heading.

Dr. Chancellor forwarded to The Times a copy of his letter to the Commissioners and with it inclosed the following: "To the Editor of The Washington Times:

"I suggest the following as a heading to this article that I am enclosing: 'More waste of public funds. Superintendent protests against purchase of unnecessary physiologies.'"

Very respectfully,
"WILLIAM E. CHANCELLOR."

His letter to the Commissioners follows:

"December 24, 1907.

"The Honorable Commissioners of the District of Columbia, District Building, Washington, D. C.

"Gentlemen: I am advised that at a meeting of the Board of Education December 23, requisitions for text books for use in the public schools of the District were authorized by the board upon the recommendation of Percy M. Hughes, assistant superintendent of schools. I am also informed that Mr. Hughes represented to the board that I had given him authority to make such recommendations for text books.

Gave Limited Authority.

"Prior to the summer vacation I wrote Mr. Hughes a letter, in which I authorized him, during my absence from the District of Columbia, to exercise such powers of the Superintendent as are not statutory, which I considered absolutely necessary for those powers to be exercised. But such authority as I thus gave did not give him authority to act for and in my stead in any matters when I was in the District of Columbia.

"Early in October I recommended requisitions for all necessary books for which the board had the money to pay. I am advised that these requisitions were rejected early in November by the board, and that the board committee and not by the board, and that, too, after the bids for the books had been submitted by the printer companies and the books themselves had been stamped for the District of Columbia. I am of the opinion that the books ordered by the board were unnecessary and that their purchase is an unjustifiable use of public funds.

"Under a statute of 1905, the Superintendent is required to give the direction of and supervision in all matters pertaining to instruction in all of the schools under the Board of Education. Under many appropriation acts, including that of 1907, he is required to distribute all books and supplies to the schools. It is my duty to supervise the purchase of books and supplies, and I believe, recognized the validity and force of these acts of Congress, though now violating them in this particular.

Attended to Duties.

"I have not been out of the District of Columbia for several weeks past, and, while confined to my room and bed because of severe illness, I have attended to the duties that the law imposes upon me as Superintendent. I have signed the pay rolls and all other documents required by the law, and I have signed and approved proper requisitions for school books.

"I feel, therefore, that under the law it becomes my plain duty to protest against the validity of the recommendation of Mr. Hughes heretofore referred to and am constrained to say that the action on his part as well as on the part of the board is not authorized by law, or by any proper authority that could in any wise give validity thereto.

"With the highest consideration, I am, Very respectfully,
"WILLIAM E. CHANCELLOR."

Capt. James F. Oyster, chairman of the Board of Education, said this afternoon: "All the phases of those requisitions for text books were taken up at the last meeting of the board, and Dr. Hughes, Mr. Cox, Mr. McNamara, and I decided that they were correct and proper in every way. That is all I care to say of the matter at this time."

HAS \$1,000 IN POCKETS,
WANDERS AS A TRAMP

TOLEDO, Ohio, Dec. 24.—Wandering about the country in a demented condition, sleeping in tramp stations, and salvation army barracks, while he had upward of \$1,000 in his pockets, George Schaeffer, hotel proprietor of Johnstown, Pa., and reputed to be worth \$200,000, has been found by relatives. Schaeffer disappeared from his home in Johnstown November 8. He has no recollection of his wanderings.

Florida and Carolina Resorts.

Best reached by Seaboard Air Line Ry. Two daily trains with through Pullman and Dining cars. Office 1421 Pa. Ave. Adv.

Thousands of Poor Happy When Good Kriss Kringle Opens Christmas Baskets



GROUP OF HAPPY CHILDREN TAKING HOME ONE OF THE CHRISTMAS DINNERS FROM THE NATIONAL RIFLES' ARMORY.

Almas Temple, Mystic Shrine, Gives Dinners to Destitute Families.

Santa Claus put on a linen duster, drove a team of twenty-four camels across the burning sands of the desert, and landed with a whoop in the middle of the floor of National Rifles' Armory, at Ninth and G streets, early this morning.

He came by the ho; and arid path instead of the frozen and icy North because he was the agent of the Nobles of Almas Temple, a mystic shrine, which had employed him as their agent to distribute to 1,000 of the deserving poor families of the District 1,000 Christmas baskets filled to the brim with Christmas dinners. The Mystic Shrine was right on the job with help for the traveler. They had the baskets waiting for him, and a committee was on hand to help in the distribution of the gifts.

Call for Baskets.

The deserving poor were also on the job. They streamed into and out of the armory from 7 o'clock in the morning until noon. Each brought a card signed by one of the nobles of Almas Temple vouching that the bearer was worthy to receive one of the baskets. This was done because the nobles make it a rule to give only to those who deserve the charity, and they make this plan sure by having individual vouchers.

Santa Claus was kept busy. He was like an overworked cook at a country barbecue. He handed out food instead of express wagons and monkeys. All the baskets were heavy, and he pretty soon discarded his linen duster, so arduous was the labor. The poor were as hungry as they were deserving, and the baskets were lugged away or the door was thrown open.

These baskets were wonders. They were packed to the limit and everything they contained was the real thing. Each contained an eight-pound ham, one-sixteenth of a barrel of flour, one-half of a peck of potatoes, two pounds of coffee, two pounds of sugar, a can of corn, a can of tomatoes, a can of pork and beans. Nothing was of the second grade and everything was full weight.

Nobles Help Distribute.

Among those who bore the magic "cards of admission" were men, women, boys, and girls. Some of the men and women were so old that they staggered pitifully under the weight of their baskets. When this was noticed, Santa Claus gave the high sign to the nobles who were assisting him, and, straightway, one of the nobles helped the tottering one to the street car, provided a car ticket for the journey home, and shouted a "Merry Christmas" after the departing one.

When any of the applicants for baskets looked tired the car tickets that Santa Claus had found useless in his dash across the burning sands were shoved out with great cheerfulness. There were one or two instances when the linen duster he had discarded would have been of use to him, but he had to hold on to that so as to make a quick getaway across the sands at noon and return for the stock-taking filling stunt by the frozen path to-night.

Excursion Furnishes Money.

These 1,000 baskets were provided from the proceeds of the annual summer excursion of Almas Temple, as has been done for the past ten years. They covered the entire first floor of the armory and made the place look like the barometer of a grocery store. One of the best features of the distribution was the orderly manner in which this great charity work was done. For this, thanks are due to the committee of nobles who managed the affair.

This committee consisted of F. A. Sebring, L. A. Dent, Alexander Grant, J. A. Ellinger, Roe Fulkerson, Harrison

(Continued on Second Page.)

NAVY SIZE ONLY FAULT IS ANSWER

—Captain Hobson
Armor Will Compare
With Any, He
Declares.

Lack of Torpedoes
Deplored by Former
Constructor.

Tells of Need of Strong
Fleet in Both
Oceans.

Capt. Richmond Pearson Hobson, Representative in Congress from the Sixth Alabama district, has prepared the following article dealing with the recent criticisms of the navy by Henry Reuter and others. As a former constructor in the navy, who helped to design some of the ships that are now on the way to the Pacific, the opinions of Captain Hobson are of especial value and significance.

By RICHMOND PEARSON HOBSON.

It is important that the American people should be kept acquainted with the elements of national defense, should be informed when any of these elements are inadequate or inefficient. The element of supreme importance to America is her navy, and I believe that at this juncture, and generally, the most important criticism of the navy that should be made public is its insufficient size.

We are able to assemble only one great fleet, while we have three oceans to defend. With our fleet now in the Atlantic we are defenseless in the Pacific; and when our fleet is in the Pacific we are defenseless in the Atlantic, and unable to guarantee the enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine.

America is not a nation with interests and dangers in one part of the world. She has interests and dangers in all parts of the world. The only basis for a true and adequate national defense is to have a navy which will enable us to cope with any fleet that might be sent against us by any European power, in the Atlantic, and at the same time be able to cope with one sent by an Asiatic power, in the Pacific.

It is also important that the conditions in the navy that we have should be known. Mr. Reuter, and his contemporaneous critics are doing the public a service in turning the search light upon the elements of efficiency, and pointing out all features that could be improved or corrected.

The question of the main armor belt is essentially a technical one. This armor protects a water line area upon which depends a ship's stability. It is designed to extend far enough above and far enough below water, so that when the ship rolls in a fighting sea way, no breach could be made that would let in water. It must be borne in mind that the total weight available for armor is limited, for, as the belt on a given ship is made wider or higher, it must be made lighter and for a belt to stand high out of water, it must also extend under water. As the battleships are now built, the armor decks extend across the ship at both the upper and the lower edge of the armor belt.

Must Pierce Both Armors.

A shot passing in above the armor belt would have to pierce both armor decks before it could reach the magazines, steering gear, machinery or other vitals. But a shot passing in below an armor belt would explode in the midst of the vitals. One such shell could destroy a ship, but one shell above the water line would not destroy any ship.

For this reason the heavy armor belt is carried much farther below the water line than above.

I know that ships usually draw more water than they are designed to draw, and this is expected and allowed for, but sometimes a draft is even deeper than allowed for, and this tends to lower the upper edge of the armor belt.

Displacement Varies.

Furthermore even seagoing ships vary in displacement, according to the load carried. The difference in the normal and the full coal capacity alone amounts to as much as 1,500 tons or more, which would make a difference of from one to two feet in draft for even the largest vessel. When a ship is fully loaded, her armor belt will naturally be very deep in the water, and in some cases almost submerged, but ships are not supposed to be in deep laden condition when in a fight. If battle was approaching when the vessels were in a deep laden condition—when the armor belt was too low—the captains would undoubtedly throw part of their coal overboard.

I do not mean to say that it would not be good practice to make the heavy belts wider, and carry them a little higher above the water. This is the trend of our designs, but I believe that many foreign ships have gone too far in that direction, making their armor thinner only to be wider and in some cases it will probably be found in battle that the shells supposed to be kept out will pierce this armor.

An intelligent criticism of this tech-

(Continued on Second Page.)

EXONERATE BROKER OF CONSPIRACY IN BANK THEFT CASE

Government Unable to
Convict Man Accused
With Teller Chisolm.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 24.—A jury in the United States Circuit Court this morning rendered a verdict declaring V. L. Sims not guilty of conspiracy with Alexander R. Chisolm, former pay teller of the First National Bank of Birmingham, in the embezzlement of \$60,000 from that institution.

Sims was the manager of a brokerage concern in Birmingham through which Chisolm speculated extensively. He was indicted at the time the true bills were returned against Chisolm. The latter is now serving a term of six years in the United States penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga.

In the case of Sims the Government failed to establish the conspiracy charge, being unable to prove that Sims knew that the money used by Chisolm in conducting his deals was not his own. The case against P. G. Smith, local manager for another brokerage company, indicted with Sims and Chisolm, will be dismissed.

BROWNSON RESIGNS POSITION IN NAVY AS BUREAU CHIEF

Rear Admiral Brownson, chief of the bureau of Navigation of the Navy Department, has resigned, and the resignation has been accepted by the President.

The cause for the admiral's action was announced this afternoon, and the latest secrecy was maintained by all the officials of the War Department.

Secretary Taft did not arrive in the city until after 1:30 p. m., and did not go to the offices until later.

In his absence no one else would make any comment on the resignation.

Admiral Brownson was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1885 and was immediately assigned to duty on the flagship of the North Atlantic fleet, where he served three years, and was then sent to the Pacific station.

In 1872 he was assigned to duty at the Naval Academy and later did coast survey work on the steamer Blake.

From 1885 to 1889 he was in command of the steamer Petrel, and later took command of the Dolphin. He served in the Detroit from 1890-94, during which time the ship was at Rio Janeiro during the Brazilian revolution.

He became commandant of cadets at the Naval Academy in 1894 and two years later was appointed a member of the board of inspection and survey, during the Spanish-American war he commanded the Yankee and went from that ship to the Alabama.

TWO SHOT BY WAITER
FOR REFUSING HIM JOB

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.—Lying in a hospital in a critical condition, John T. Wicher, manager of a restaurant, and his assistant, Frank Baseman, are suffering from bullet wounds inflicted by William Potlowski, a waiter.

Potlowski went into the place to-day and demanded a position. When refused he drew a revolver and fired. The place was filled with customers, and a small panic occurred. Potlowski was finally overpowered. He is believed to be insane.

MOTHER LIBERATED, BOY WILL SEE HER FIRST TIME IN YEAR

Eddie Carey to Be With
Parent Exonerated
of Murder.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.—The hapless four-year-old son New York today was little Eddie Carey and this Christmas promises to be a joyous one for him, for Santa Claus will bring him his mother as a Christmas present.

Eddie has not seen his mother for a whole year. She has spent the last twelve months in Moyamensing prison, under the accusation of having poisoned her other two children, Mary and Annie, one of them two, and the other four years older than Eddie, and of having killed Cecilia and Patrick Cook, two friends, as well.

But today Bridget Carey is free and the cloud has been lifted from her head. A jury, after hearing all that could be brought against her, declared that she was not guilty. It was a Christmas gift of justice to her and she was released from the Moyamensing jail.

The mother was on her way to New York today to see her boy. She brought with her a cap and a pair of mittens which she had knitted in jail for Eddie, the only child left to her. The boy has been living with Mrs. Bridget McDaid, a cousin of Mrs. Carey, in New York.

STEAMER MINNESOTA ON FIRE IN JAPAN

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The steamship Minnesota, of the Great Northern line, has been on fire at Kobe, Japan. The ship and her cargo were considerably damaged before the fire was subdued.

The Minnesota is a vessel of 13,323 tons, and runs between Seattle and Japan and Chinese ports.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

The storm that was central Monday in the lower Lake region has moved to the mouth of the St. Lawrence, where the barometer this morning read 28.70 inches. A second storm is moving eastward over Montana with low pressure, but as yet very little precipitation.

The weather is generally cloudy east of the Mississippi, with light rain in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, and snow in the Lake region and St. Lawrence valley and rain in New England. The temperature has fallen 10 to 20 degrees in the middle and south Atlantic States.

Steamers departing today for European ports will have brisk southwest winds and fair weather to the Grand Banks.

SUN, TABLE.
Sun sets today.....4:42
Sun rises tomorrow.....7:16

TIDE TABLE.
High water today.....11:22 p.m.
Low water today.....5:40 a.m.
High water tomorrow.....11:25 a.m.
Low water tomorrow.....5:10 a.m.

MAN IS STRANGLED AT LUNATIC ASYLUM, DECIDE PHYSICIANS

Investigation of Horrible
Charges to Begin in
Marseilles.

MARSEILLES, France, Dec. 24.—Investigation of charges of horrible cruelties at the Marseilles Lunatic Asylum will begin immediately after the holidays.

The scandal began with the death there of Michael Taillefer, who, after having been reported to have died naturally, was found to have been strangled.

Four attendants are under arrest, charged with the responsibility. In gathering evidence against them the police unearthed facts which led them to believe others have perished similarly. Taillefer had been at the asylum but a few days. During a period of violence he bit a keeper. Three others rushed to his assistance and put the patient in a strait-jacket. Then, according to their story, they found he was dead.

Taillefer's wife had the body exhumed and examined by physicians who found unmistakable evidence of strangulation. Then the keepers confessed that Taillefer, a very strong man, argued them out of their duty and strangled him to keep him quiet.

BRADLEY CHILDREN SUE BROWN ESTATE AS SENATOR'S HEIRS

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 24.—On the ground that the late Senator Brown, who was shot to death in Washington by their mother, Mrs. Annie Bradley, had frequently acknowledged them as his children, Arthur Brown Bradley and Martin Montgomery Bradley have filed suit through their guardian, Mrs. Madison, mother of Mrs. Bradley, to break the will of the former Senator, contending that his disavowal of them in the will was due to an abnormal state of mind resulting from constipation, and from habitual intoxication.

NEW STOP FOR CARS
IS ORDERED BY WEST

Commissioner West today approved the recommendation of Capt. John G. Daley, of the Ninth precinct, that the cars of the Washington Railway and Electric Company be required to stop on the near side of Fourth and C streets northeast, instead of Fourth street and Massachusetts avenue as at present.

Captain Daley is of the opinion that there would be less danger of accidents at this stop and little inconvenience to passengers who reside on Fourth street and Massachusetts avenue.

Best Printing Brings Best Business.

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